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### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a sequence of audio samples, each of said samples being stored within a respective packet, said method comprising:

retrieving a first packet from an input buffer, said first packet having an associated length;

determining pitch associated with audio information contained within said first packet;

determining whether a second packet of said audio samples has arrived at said input buffer, said second packet having an expected arrival time; and

~~adapting the pitch of said audio information within said retrieved packet in an instance where~~ adjusting said length of said first packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch, responsive to a determination that said second packet has not timely arrived arrives after the expected arrival time.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said adjusting comprises;

processing at least two adjacent pitch periods are synthesized to produce a new respective pitch periods period.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein ~~each~~ said new pitch period replaces said at least two adjacent pitch periods.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein ~~each~~ said new pitch period is inserted between two of said at least two adjacent pitch periods.

5. (Previously presented) ~~[[A]]~~ The method of claim 1 further comprising:

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determining a scheduled play out time of the audio information within the second packet.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining an estimated time of arrival (ETA) of a sequentially following packet.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein a target play time comprises the ETA and a latency period of said sequentially following packet.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the play out time of audio information within the second packet is reduced in response to an early arrival of a sequentially following packet at said input buffer.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the play out time of audio information within the second packet is not reduced by a factor greater than two.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the play out time of audio information within said second packet is reduced by deleting at least one pitch period of a plurality of pitch periods contained within the said audio information.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the target play time of audio information within the second packet is expanded if a next packet arrives during ~~its~~ a latency period associated with the next packet.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the a play time of audio information within said second packet is adjusted to compensate for adjustments of play time of the retrieved packet.

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13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a first VoIP gateway for retrieving a first packet from an input buffer, said first packet having an associated length;  
said first VoIP gateway determining pitch associated with audio information contained within said first packet[.];  
said first VoIP gateway determining whether a second packet of said audio samples information has arrived at said input buffer, said second packet having an expected arrival time, and ~~adapting the pitch of said audio information within said retrieved packet in an instance where~~ adjusting said length of said first packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch, responsive to a determination that said second packet has not timely arrived arrives after the expected arrival time.
14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said adjusting comprises:  
processing at least two adjacent pitch periods ~~are synthesized~~ to produce a new respective pitch periods period.
15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~13~~ 14, wherein each said new pitch period replaces said at least two adjacent pitch periods.
16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein each said new pitch period is inserted between two of said at least two adjacent pitch periods.
17. (Previously presented) A method of claim 13, wherein said first VoIP gateway determines a scheduled play out time of the audio information within the second packet.

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18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said first VoIP gateway determines an estimated time of arrival (ETA) of a sequentially following packet.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein a target play time comprises the ETA and a latency period of said sequentially following packet.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the scheduled play out time of audio information within the second packet is reduced in response to an early arrival of a sequentially following packet at said input buffer.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the scheduled play out time of audio information within the second packet is not reduced by a factor greater than two.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the scheduled play out time of audio information within said second packet is reduced by deleting at least one pitch period of a plurality of pitch periods contained within the said audio information.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the target play time of audio information within the second packet is expanded if a next packet arrives during ~~its~~ the latency period of said sequentially following packet.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the target play time of audio information within said second packet is expanded by copying pitch periods contained within said audio information of said ~~nonsequential~~ second packet.

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25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for expanding and reducing audio information within packets, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device coupled to said processor for controlling said processor, said processor ~~operative with said~~ comprising instructions operative to:

retrieve a first packet from an input buffer, said first packet having an associated length;

determine pitch associated with audio information contained within said first packet;

determine whether a second packet of said audio ~~samples~~ information has arrived at said input butter, said second packet having an expected arrival time; and

~~adapt the pitch of said audio information within said retrieved packet in an instance where~~ adjust said length of said first packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch, responsive to a determination that said second packet has not timely arrived arrives after the expected arrival time.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, ensures the processor to perform a method comprising:

retrieving a first packet from an input buffer, said first packet having an associated length;

determining pitch associated with audio information contained within said first packet;

determining whether a second packet of said audio ~~samples~~ information has arrived at said input buffer, said second packet having an expected arrival time; and

~~adapting the pitch of said audio information within said second packet in an instance where~~ adjusting said length of said first packet using at least one

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pitch period associated with said pitch, responsive to a determination that said second packet has not timely arrived arrives after the expected arrival time.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a sequence of audio samples, each of said samples being stored within a respective packet, said method comprising:

retrieving a first packet form an input buffer;

determining a pitch within said audio samples for each said retrieved packet; and

adjusting a play time for said retrieved packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch based on a time of arrival of a sequentially following packet.

28 (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

determining an estimated time of arrival (ETA) for the said sequentially following packet.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said play time is a target play time.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said target play time includes the ETA of said sequentially following packet and a latency period.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 further comprising:

expanding the play time of said retrieved packet when said sequentially following packet arrives during it's the latency period.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the play time of the retrieved packet is expanded by copying pitch periods contained within said retrieved packet.

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33. (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising:  
reducing the play time of said sequentially following packet when a  
subsequent sequentially following packet arrives before its ETA.

34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the play time of the  
sequentially following packet is reduced by removing a pitch period within said  
sequentially following packet.

35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of reducing is  
implemented to compensate for the step of expanding.